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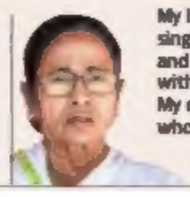
I hope the PM and the BJP govt will leave their stubbornness and focus on farmer welfare, ensure MSP and evolve a consensus with state govts, farmer organisations and opposition parties before taking any such step in future

Congress president Sonia Gandhi

Ultimately, as UP and Punjab elections came closer and particularly when the BJP saw the reaction of farmers in the villages of Haryana and Punjab and some other states, they decided to withdraw the three farm laws

NCP chief Sharad Pawar



My heartfelt congratulations to every single farmer who fought relentlessly and were not fazed by the cruelty with which @BJP4India treated you. My deepest condolences to everyone who lost their loved ones in this fight

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

Constitutional process to repeal laws will be completed in the upcoming session of Parliament starting later this month, says Modi; fears of widening Sikh-Hindu divide in Punjab and possible heavy poll reverses in western UP because of agrarian unrest responsible for sharp climbdown

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ROUNDS OF TALKS WERE HELD BETWEEN THE CENTRE AND FARMERS

Farmers celebrate after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the decision to repeal the farm laws, at the Singhu border in New Delhi on Friday | PTI

FARM LAWS WEEDED OUT FOR GOOD

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sprang a surprise by announcing the process to repeal three contentious laws farmers were agitated about, marking a sharp climbdown in the face of electoral challenges in five states, including Uttar Pradesh, early next year.

Apologising for "deficiency" in explaining the merits of the laws to "some of the farmers", Modi sought to take the moral high ground, saying "Whatever I did, I did for the farmers and whatever I am doing, I am doing for the country." He also announced the constitution of a committee to look into minimum support prices (MSP) mechanism to make it more transparent and effective.

"In the upcoming Parliament session starting at the end of this month, we will complete the constitutional process to repeal the three farm laws," Modi said.

Timing his address to the nation with Guru Purab, the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, Modi urged the agitating farmers to call off their protests and return home. "Let's make a fresh start. Let's move with a fresh beginning," he said.

The backdrop to the announcement was set up by former Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh raising security concerns in the state in his meetings with Union home minister Amit Shah after quitting the Congress, besides growing concerns within the BJP of the heavy cost, particularly in UP, where about one-fourth of the Assembly constituencies were seen to be directly affected by the farm protests.

The perceived anger of Sikhs in Punjab against the BJP and Modi in particular due to the farm laws, apparently precipitated the climbdown. The NDA had under similar circumstances let the Land Amendment Ordinances to lapse in 2015.

With Shah set to take direct charge of the western and Braj parts of UP, which together account for over 130 Assembly constituencies, the repeal could help him rework his maneuvering to win back the support of the formidable Jats. Also, for the BJP's plan to materialise to ride piggyback on Amarinder Singh in Punjab to work on the Jat Sikh and the Hindu vote base, a face saver for him had become mandatory. The prospects of the Aam Admi Party gaining from multi-cornered contests in Punjab had also been worrying the BJP lately.

"While apologising to the countrymen, today I want to say sincerely that perhaps there must have been some deficiency in our penance that we couldn't explain the truth like the light of the lamp to the farmer brothers," said Modi. He added that the government had brought in the farm laws with good intentions after extensive deliberations with stakeholders.

Pain points in the three farm sector reform laws

1 THE FARMER'S PRODUCE TRADE AND COMMERCE (PROMOTION AND FACILITATION) ACT, 2020

It allows farmers to trade their produce outside the physical markets notified under various state Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee laws. Farmers feared the new rules would lead to inadequate demand for their produce in local markets. They said transporting the produce outside mandis would not be possible because of lack of resources

2 FARMERS (EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION) AGREEMENT OF PRICE ASSURANCE AND FARM SERVICES ACT, 2020

Will create legal framework for contract farming under which farmers enter into a direct pact with a buyer before sowing season to sell produce at pre-determined prices. Farmers worried that it would lead to corporatisation of agriculture and the end of the MSP regime. There were concerns that the contract system would make small and marginal farmers vulnerable to exploitation from big companies

3 ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020

It will take away Centre's powers to impose stockholding limit on food items, except under extraordinary circumstances. Market forces would determine stock limits on farming produce. No specific opposition to this provision, but it is seen as contrary to the objective of the main law, which is to maintain regular supply of essentials at a fair price for consumers

'NEXT FIGHT IS FOR MSP GUARANTEE'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi / Chandigarh

WHILE all farmer unions have welcomed the government's decision to repeal the contentious farm laws, they are not ready to call off their agitation yet. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella organisation of various farm unions, and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) said they will not stop the protests unless the laws are repealed fully in Parliament.

SKM said it has plans for the next three-four months including visiting poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, keeping an eye on the winter session of Parliament, and organising large-scale protests across the country on January 26. It also said that a concrete plan of action will be decided in a meeting of farmers' leaders on Saturday. SKM leader Darshan Pal said there are two distinct issues comprising the farm laws and Minimum Support Price. "SKM reminds the Prime Minister that the agitation is not just for the repeal of the three black laws, but also for a statutory guarantee of remunerative prices for all agricultural produce and for all farmers. This important demand of farmers is still pending. So is the withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill. SKM will take note of all developments, hold its meeting soon and announce further decisions," an SKM statement read.

BKU's Rakesh Tikait said that farmers' agitation wouldn't die down anytime soon and will continue till Parliament repeals these laws. "The agitation will not be withdrawn immediately, we will wait for the day when agricultural laws will be repealed in Parliament. Along with MSP, the government should also discuss other issues of farmers," Tikait tweeted.

We brought in the laws for the welfare of farmers... but were not able to explain to some farmers such a sacred thing

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Salutes to our farmers and their brave struggle which has led to the repeal of Modi's three black farm laws. We must not forget the sacrifice of 750 farmers who lost their lives in this struggle

- CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury

The protest won't be withdrawn immediately, we will wait for the day when the farm laws are repealed in Parliament. Along with Minimum Support Price, the government should talk to farmers on other issues too

- Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait

INSIDE VICTORY SHOWS LIMITS OF PARLIAMENTARY POWER | P8 | WHAT NEXT AFTER THE REPEAL OF FARM LAWS | P8 | PROTESTING FARMERS CELEBRATE VICTORY | P9 | 669 FARMERS' LIVES LOST IN PROTESTS | P9 | DECISION IN NATIONAL INTEREST, SAYS BJP | P9 | JUNKING REFORMS BAD FOR THE FARM SECTOR: ECONOMISTS | P13

POWER OF 50s

Indian batsman Rohit Sharma and K L Rahul greet each other during their second T20I against New Zealand at JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi, Friday. After restricting the Black Caps to 153/6, Rahul (65) and Rohit Sharma (55) starred in the India reply, to reach the target in the 18th over. India clinched the series 2-0. | PTI | P15

GIM-READY

State looks to set up land banks in all districts

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

GEARING up to host the next edition of the Global Investors' Meet (GIM) in 2022, the State Government has decided to set up land banks in every district and is also looking for land to develop industrial parks.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has started identifying land to be developed where investors can set up industries in future. According to officials, more land means more investors investing in Karnataka, thus creating more employment opportunities.

"Several investors and firms are expected to participate in the GIM 2022. When they come, it is imperative to have readily available land in every district. We should be in a position to provide them the required land in every district. Medium and Large Scale Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani is keen on providing land to more investors to generate jobs," an official from the Department of Industries and Commerce told *TNIE*.

Officials point out that presently, the government is in possession of 5,000 acres of developed land suitable to set up industries. "But for the GIM, we need at least 30,000 acres ready by late next year when investors arrive for the meet. The Joint Directors of the Industries Department, along with land surveyors and district Deputy Commissioners, are identifying suitable land. The KIADB will convert the land for industry use," they explained.

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Focus on all sectors

The State Government is also planning to set up one industrial park in every district with focus on different sectors. Under this, a pharma park in Yadgiri, textile and jewellery parks in Kalaburgi, IT park in Hubballi-Dharwad, an industrial corridor in Tumakuru and Dharwad districts are envisaged

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
Nov 18 **65,45,982 doses**
Nov 19 **46,31,286 doses**
TOTAL: 115,73,24,921

NATIONWIDE	NOV 18	NOV 19
Fresh cases	11,919	11,106
Recoveries	11,242	12,789
Deaths	470	459

KARNATAKA	NOV 18	NOV 19
Fresh cases	313	242
Recoveries	369	329
Deaths	4	4

EXPRESS READ

PM Narendra Modi hands over LCH to IAF

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday handed over the light combat aircraft (LCH) to the Air Force chief, drones and UAVs built by Indian start-ups to the Army chief, and the BEL-manufactured advanced electronic warfare suite for naval ships to the Navy chief.

Reliance reboots Aramco deal; stake sale off

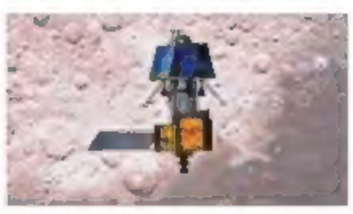
New Delhi: After missing two self-imposed deadlines, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has shelved a proposed deal to sell 20 per cent stake in its oil refinery and petrochemical business to Saudi Aramco for an asking of $15 billion.

'CRASH' COURSE

'Traffic jams' in space has scientists worried

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ Bengaluru

IT'S just not on city roads that we have to contend with traffic jams. Space scientists are worried over the increasing number of satellites in the lunar orbit, and more so in Earth's orbit. This worry of an imminent "traffic jam" in space — mainly in the orbits of the Earth, Moon and (in future) Mars — found expression at the crossover session of the Sydney Dialogue at the Bengaluru Tech Summit on Friday. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan called for a collaborative approach in Space



Situational Awareness (SSA) by tracking objects in orbit and predicting where they will be at any given time.

The ISRO chief particularly stressed on the importance of all space agencies collaborating with each other to track objects in space and mitigate threats of collisions or near-collisions, and stressed that the role of the QUAD (the USA, Australia, Japan and India) will be more significant in this regard.

Sivan's appeal gains significance in the background of a projected near-collision between India's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter (CH2O) and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)/National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), both in the lunar orbit, and how it was avoided through data exchange and collaboration.

The extremely close conjunction between CH2O and LRO was expected to occur on October 20 at 11:15 am IST over the Lunar North Pole. A week prior to that, analyses by ISRO and JPL/NASA showed the separation between the two spacecraft will be less than 100 metres. The data exchange between ISRO and JPL/NASA highlighted the importance of undertaking a collision avoidance manoeuvre, and it was mutually agreed that CH2O will make the manoeuvre. The move was carried out at 8.22 pm on October 18, and CH2O's modified orbit confirmed that there will be no further close conjunctions between the two spacecraft in the lunar orbit.

CONTINUED ON: P4

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